

**The claims defining the invention are as follows:**

1. A method for manipulating an electronic document automatically created by an application program, said method comprising the steps of:

5 identifying a user involved manipulation of said electronic document to determine if said invoked manipulation is one of a predetermined group of manipulations; wherein if said invoked manipulation is not a member of said group, allowing said invoked manipulation to proceed; or if said invoked manipulation is a member of said group, allowing said manipulation to proceed only in respect of a predetermined portion of said electronic document.

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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of pages of said electronic document.

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3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said group includes a printing function.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said printing function is the only member of said group.

20 Sub a1/ 5.

A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said electronic document represents a conglomeration of user selected documents obtained via a traversal of a computer network.

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6. A method according to claim 5, when not dependent on claim 2, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of said selected documents.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein associated with each said selected document of said combination is a document location identifier, and said predetermined portion is determined using said document location identifiers.

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8. A method according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein said manipulation is allowed to proceed only in respect of a predetermined portion of each said electronic documents.

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9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of pages of an electronic document.

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10. A method according to any one of claims ~~5 to 9~~<sup>5 - 7</sup>, wherein said group includes a printing function.

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11. A method according to any one of claims ~~3 to 10~~<sup>5 - 7</sup>, wherein said printing function includes a print reduction function.

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12. A method according to any one of claims ~~3 to 11~~<sup>5 - 7</sup>, wherein said printing function includes a print preview function.

13. An apparatus for manipulating an electronic document automatically created by an application program, said apparatus comprising:

identifying means for identifying a user involved manipulation of said electronic document to determine if said invoked manipulation is one of a predetermined group of manipulations;

allowing means for allowing said invoked manipulation to proceed if said invoked manipulation is not a member of said group; or if said invoked manipulation is

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*CD*

a member of said group, allowing said manipulation to proceed only in respect of a predetermined portion of said electronic document.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of pages of said electronic document.

15. An apparatus according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said group includes a printing function.

10 16. A apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said printing function is the only member of said group.

*Sub a2* 17. An apparatus according to any one of the claims 13 to 16, wherein said electronic document represents a conglomeration of user selected documents obtained via a traversal of a computer network.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17, when not dependent on claim 14, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of said selected documents.

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19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein associated with each said selected document of said combination is a document location identifier, and said predetermined portion is determined using said document location identifiers.

25 20. An apparatus according to any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein said manipulation is allowed to proceed only in respect of a predetermined portion of each said electronic documents.

21. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of pages of an electronic document.

5 a 22. An apparatus according to any one of claims ~~17 to 21~~<sup>17 to 19</sup>, wherein said group includes a printing function.

a 23. A method according to any one of claims ~~15 to 22~~<sup>17 to 19</sup>, wherein said printing function includes a print reduction function.

10 a 24. A method according to any one of claims ~~15 to 23~~<sup>17 to 19</sup>, wherein said printing function includes a print preview function.

15 25. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for manipulating an electronic document automatically created by an application program, said product including:

identifying means for identifying a user involved manipulation of said electronic document to determine if said invoked manipulation is one of a predetermined group of manipulations;

20 allowing means for allowing said invoked manipulation to proceed if said invoked manipulation is not a member of said group; or if said invoked manipulation is a member of said group, allowing said manipulation to proceed only in respect of a predetermined portion of said electronic document.

25 26. A computer program product according to claim 25, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of pages of said electronic document.

*Sub 37* 27. A computer program product according to claim 25 or 26, wherein said group includes a printing function.

5 28. A computer program product according to claim 27, wherein said printing function is the only member of said group.

*Sub 37* 29. A computer program product according to any one of claims 25 to 28, wherein said electronic document represents a conglomeration of user selected documents obtained via a traversal of a computer network.

10 30. A computer program product according to claim 29, when not dependent on claim 26, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of said selected documents.

15 31. A computer program product according to claim 30, wherein associated with each said selected document of said combination is a document location identifier, and said predetermined portion is determined using said document location identifiers.

20 32. A computer program product according to any one of claims 29 to 31, wherein said manipulation is allowed to proceed only in respect of a predetermined portion of each said electronic documents.

25 33. A computer program product according to claim 32, wherein said predetermined portion comprises a predetermined number of pages of an electronic document.

*A* 34. A method according to any one of claims 29 to 33, wherein said group includes a printing function.

*29 to 31*

*250* a 35. A method according to any one of claims ~~27 to 34~~<sup>29 to 31</sup>, wherein said printing function includes a print reduction function.

5 a 36. A method according to any one of claims ~~27 to 35~~<sup>29 to 31</sup>, wherein said printing function includes a print preview function.

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